

Syllabus

MF 612 Person, Family, and Culture

Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary

Summer 2009 2 Units

June 15-18 & 22-24, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

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Office Hours: Friday 1:30 pm -3:30 pm and by appointment

Course Description: This course will examine the individual and family in the context of changing forces in American society. It is a theological, philosophical, sociological and psychological study of the individual and family in terms of development, structure, organization, and interaction. Students are expected to develop an understanding of the role of religion in the family in the modern world.

Objectives:

1. To explore the constructs of personhood, family, and culture from an interdisciplinary perspective that includes biblical, theological, philosophical, anthropological, psychological, sociological, and literary thought.
2. Out of the exploration of those constructs, develop specific plans for future study and growth in the ability to facilitate spiritual and psychological growth in persons, families, and cultures.
3. To help students understand themselves as persons within families and cultures.
4. Out of their understanding of themselves, develop specific plans for growth as a person within families and cultures.

Related Degree Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate commitment to live as a disciple of Jesus in Christian community. (1)
2. Interpret diverse cultural contexts of ministry using theological perspectives integrated with social scientific approaches. (3)
3. Articulate integrative views of humanity, theology, and counseling. (4.1)
4. Demonstrate understanding of individual and family life cycle development and

- intervention across the life span. (4.2)
5. Demonstrate appropriate use of one's personal self in response to human need. (4.3)
 6. Demonstrate proactive understanding, awareness, and relational skills across cultures, religions, and special populations. (4.7)
 7. Demonstrate proactive commitment to a community of witness, justice, and peace. (4.8)

Course Requirements:

1. Class Participation. Worth 2% of class grade.
2. Reading Outline: A summary of the content of the reading assigned for that class, not more than one page long, due at the beginning of each class session. Worth 15% of class grade (2% each plus 1% for completing all of the outlines)
3. Reading Reviews: Reviews of three of the assigned readings (an assignment is an entire novel or a chapter in a text or article from a journal), one due each Thursday. Please use Allen Gunther's "Writing Book Reviews" as a guide for this assignment (on web page under handouts). Worth 20% of class grade (2% each plus 2% for completing all the reviews).
4. Paper: Students will write a broad paper describing their exploration of person, family, and culture and how these constructs are related. The paper should be informed by Biblical theology and the social sciences but should also include personal application. (Students are not expected to disclose more about themselves than they are comfortable disclosing.) The paper should conclude with carefully crafted questions the student is asking about the subject areas of this class and preliminary, but specific, thoughts regarding how they will proceed to develop answers to those questions. The grade will be based on (1) the student's ability to integrate theological, scientific, and personal information, and (2) the student's ability to craft good questions that will direct further growth. Worth 50% of class grade.

Students may turn in a draft of an assignment one week before its due date for feedback from the professor.

Except for the Reading Outlines, all written assignments are expected in a professional format. For counseling students, this is the format of the American Psychological Association publication Manual, 5th edition; for theology students it may be either APA format, Chicago Manual of Style (sometimes referred to as

Turabian), or Modern Language Association (MLA) style, as described in the MBBS Style Guide. Papers that are not presented in the appropriate professional format will be returned unread.

The APA publication manual can be found on reserve at the Hiebert Library. Another option is to purchase an APA template for MS Word entitled APA Style Helper 3.0. Many summaries of APA format are available on the internet. One example is published by Vanguard University and can be found at: http://www.vanguard.edu/faculty/ddegelman/index.aspx?doc_id=796. See the MBBS Style Guide for help with the Chicago Manual of Style and MLA Style.

Grading Scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89%
C	70-79%
F	< 70%

Seminary Academic Polices: Academic Policies. MBBS academic policies (as well as other school policies) are described at <http://www.mbseminary.edu/fresno/policies/>. These policies provide guidance on academic integrity and plagiarism, accommodation for disabilities, incomplete course work, extensions, dates for changing registration, non-discriminatory and inclusive language, appeals, etc. Students are expected to be familiar with these policies and will be held responsible for adhering to them. If you have questions about how these policies relate to you or to a situation that you face in your studies, please speak to the professor or consult the Registrar.

Course evaluations are to be completed online and are due one week after the completion of the course. Official grades will not be posted until the student's evaluation of the course is completed.

Required Texts

Hoff, B, (1994). *The singing creek where the willows grow: The mystical nature diary of Opal Whiteley*. New York: Penguin.

Hunsberger, G. R., & Van Gelder, C. (1996). *The church between gospel and culture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans. (selected chapters, see schedule below)

Lints, R., Horton, M. S., & Talbot, M. R. (Eds.) (2006). *Personal identity in theological perspective*. Grand Rapids: MI: Eerdmans.

Pamuk, O. (2004). *Istanbul: Memories and the city*. Trans. Maureen Freely. New York: Vintage.

Shafranske, E. P. (Ed.) (1996). *Religion and the clinical practice of psychology*. Washington, D.C.: APA. (selected chapters, see schedule below)

Shelly, M. (1831). *Frankenstein*.

Tentative Class Schedule

Date	Topic	Assignment
June 15	Asking Questions	Hunsberger & Van Gelder
	What is a Person?	Rose & Rose Lints et al. Sec. 1
	Biblical Responses	Augusburger Ch. 3*
June 16	What Is a Person?	Shelly
	Philosophical and Scientific Responses	*Kiersey
	<i>Please Take Jugian Type Instrument Before Class**</i>	
	How do people change?	a Kempis* Augustine*
June 17	What is a Family?	Lints et al. Sec. 2
	Biblical Theology	Augsburger Ch. 6*
June 18	What is a Family?	Kraus, Ch. 4
	Cultural Responses	Clinton*
June 22	What is a Family?	Hoff
	Dysfunction and Pathology	
	What is Culture?	Hiebert in Hunsberger & Van Gelder
	Biblical Theology	Augsburger Chs 1, 2*
June 23	What is Culture?	Shafranske Ch. 1, 5
	Anthropological Responses	Hall* Sanneh*
June 24	How do Person, Family, & Culture Relate?	Pamuk Shafranske, Ch. 6 Reading Reviews Due
June 29		Paper Due

*Students may receive extra credit for including these in their Reading Outline for this

class. Additional extra credit will be given for a Reading Review of these books.

Bibliography

- a Kempis, T. (1995). *The imitation of Christ*. Garden City, NY: Image.
- Anderson, R. S. (1991). *On being human: Essays in theological anthropology*. Pasadena, CA: Fuller Seminary Press.
- Airhart, P. D. & Lamberis-Bendroth, M. (1996). *Faith Traditions and the Family*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press.
- Augustine. (1961). *Confessions*. London: Penguin.
- Augsberger, (1986). *Pastoral counseling across cultures*. Philadelphia: Westminster
- Barna, G. (2001). *Boiling point: Monitoring cultural shifts in the 21st century*. Ventura, CA: Regal.
- Browning, D. S., Miller-McLemore, B.J., Courture, P.D., Brynoff, L., K., & Franklin, R.M. (1997). *From culture wars to common ground: Religion and the American family debate*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox.
- Cameron, N. (1990). *Are Christians human? An exploration of true spirituality*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.
- Clinton, H. (2006). *It takes a village*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Coupland, D. (1994). *The way of the (modern) world*. Grand Rapids, IL: Erdmann's.
- Dyck, A. J. (2005). *Rethinking rights and responsibilities: The moral bonds of community*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.
- Garland, D. E., & Garland, D. R. (2007). *Flawed families of the Bible: How God's grace works through imperfect relationships*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos.
- Gergen, K. J., & David, K. E. (Eds.) (1985). *The social construction of the person*. New York: Springer-Verlag.
- Fisher, E., (2004). *Peoples and cultures of the world*. (audio tape). Chantilly, VA: The Teaching Company.
- Friedman, E. H. (1985). *Generation to generation: Family process in church and synagogue*. New York: Guilford.

- Hall, D. J. (1997). *The end of Christendom and the future of Christianity*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity.
- Hart, A. (1992). *Me, myself, and I: How far should we go in our search for self fulfillment?* Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications.
- Jewett, P. K. (1996). *Who we are: Our dignity as human*. Grand Rapids, IL: Eerdmans
- Keirse, D. (1998). *Please understand me II: Temperament, character, intelligence*. Del Mar, CA: Prometheus Nemesis Book Company
- Kraus, C. N. (1991). *God our savior: Theology in a Christological mode*. Scottsdale, PA: Herald Press.
- Marlin, E. (1989). *Genograms: The new tool for exploring the personality, career, and lover patterns you inherit*. Chicago: Contemporary Books.
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- Nowen, H. (1994). *Here and now*. New York: Crossroads.
- Rosenblatt, N. H., & Horwitz, J. (1995). *Wrestling with angels: What genesis teaches us about our spiritual identity, sexuality, and personal relationships*. New York: Delta.
- Rubio, J. H. (2003). *A Christian theology of marriage and family*. New York: Paulist Press.
- Shuman, J., & Volk, B. (2006). *Reclaiming the body: Christians and the faithful use of modern medicine*. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos.
- Vande Kemp, H. (1991). *Family therapy: Christian perspectives*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker.
- Wuenk, N. L. (2000). *Essentials of Myers-Briggs type indicator assessment*. New York: Wiley.
- Sanneh, L. O. (1996). *Religion and the variety of culture: A study of origin and practice*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity.
- Soto, G. (1994). *Crazy Weekend*. New York: Persea Books.
- Thompson, Marjorie J. (1996). *Family the Forming Center: A Vision of the Role of*

- Family in Spiritual Formation*. Nashville: Upper Room Books.
- Tipton, S. M., & Witte, J. (2005). *Family transformed: Religion, values, and society in American life*. Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press.
- Triandis, H. (1996). The psychological measurement of cultural syndromes. *American Psychologist*, 51(4), 407-415.
- Volf, M. (1996). *Exclusion and embrace*. Nashville: Abingdon.
- White, J., & Ellision, E. (Eds.) (2005). *Covenant marriage in comparative perspective*. Grand Rapids, IL: Eerdmans.
- Wolff, H. W. (1974). *Anthropology of the Old Testament*. (Margaret Kohl, Trans.). Philadelphia: Fortress.
- ** A free Jungian Type indicator can be found at: <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes1.htm>